



Shinfield Infant & Nursery School

Autumn Term Newsletter 1

Monday 7th September 2020

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Dear Parents,

Welcome to the start of a new school year at Shinfield Infant and Nursery School. It is wonderful to hear the sound of lots of children in school again, and to witness the joyful reunions between the children and their friends. If you are new to Nursery or the school, I hope that your child has enjoyed the start of their time with us and that you will have a very happy few years here.

This newsletter normally comes out every Friday. Please be sure to read it every week as it will contain useful information about what is happening in school. Past copies are stored on the website and printed copies are kept in the school reception area. Please also check your child's book bag for any paper letters or information sent home although we will try and send most messages home via Scopay our school messaging system. If any parents are not receiving this newsletter, they should check their junk email or check the office have the right email address.

We also welcome Mrs Kelly Hursey (previously Cadman) back to our teaching team. She will be teaching Cherry Class with Mrs Feeney.

We look forward to working with you all this year and providing lots of new learning opportunities for the children. Our focus will be very much on mental health and well being of all children and staff in school, and supporting parents with the transition of children back in to school and Nursery. Please speak to your child's class teacher or myself if you have any concerns or queries. Teachers are usually out on the playground first thing for a quick message, but if you would like a longer conversation please call the school office for an appointment to meet up or have a phone call. Emails for teachers can be sent to the school email address above, marked for the attention of the teacher or the class, and we will respond as soon as they can.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy half term ahead.

Mrs Amanda Turner

Headteacher

Welcome to our new F2 children!

What a great start the children have made last week (and so have Year 1 and 2)! F2 have enjoyed exploring their new classrooms and the F2 garden. We hope you found the Stay and Play helpful and a good chance to get to know other parents and children. Many thanks to the Nursery team who came to support the children in school last Thursday. We will enjoy having them in school full time this week. We will be arranging for some 'First Day At School' class photos to be taken so please keep a look out for these in the newsletter soon.

Diary dates

These will follow soon. We are in the process of finalising alternative arrangements for many of the regular school events, and will let you know of these—this will be the case for most school events that are affected this coming year, but we hope to include as many as possible in some way or another.

PE days

At present, we ask that children come to school dressed in suitable sports clothing and trainers for their year group PE days. Please do not send PE kit in to school. Please make sure they can fasten their trainers without help.

F2 PE day is Friday Year 1 PE day is Thursday Year 2 PE day is Monday

Uniform reminder

Please label **all** items clearly with your child's name and check at the weekends to make sure names have not faded or been washed off. Hair grips, bobbles etc should be in school colours of red or navy blue only, no big bows or flowers please and shoes should be black. Extreme, dyed or closely shaved hairstyles are not permitted.

Reading Award

Our Reading Award is starting on Monday for Year 1 and 2. This half term the children are working to earn a frog badge. We have the Reading badges each half term because we have found that, however able a child is at Reading, it makes a real difference to their progress if they read regularly each week. It also gives them a great sense of achievement to be awarded a badge.

We would like every child to read at least 25 times between Monday 7th September and Thursday 8th October, which averages out at five reads a week. We count up to two reads a day so there is always an opportunity to catch up if you miss a day.

Any of these things could be counted as a read:

- 5-10 minutes reading part or all of a school reading book
- Practising the coloured words that they don't already know, which are stapled in their planners
- Reading from a library book or other book you have at home
- More advanced readers (white books & above) may read to themselves and then answer questions about what they have read
- Sharing a book with someone else where they read alternate pages/passages (we do not count having a story read to a child as a read)

Staff will count up the reads regularly and mark them with purple pen. We regret that we cannot backdate our counting so please make sure you write in whenever your child reads to you. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any further questions about the Reading Awards. It would be great if every child was able to be awarded a badge in our special Reading Badge Assembly.



Thank you to Mr and Mrs Foldvari and Mr and Mrs Bosley for an amazing new Shinfield Mud Kitchen—we think this is the Ritz of school mud kitchens; created from Mr Bosley's clever idea for using pallets!

Reading book change protocol September 2020

To keep everyone safe we are having to alter the frequency of how often we change reading books.

Books will be changed once a week, and each child will have 2.

The books can go home each day and will also be read in school. When the books are changed, we will keep them in a box for 72 hours before putting them back in circulation again. This will ensure that there is no cross contamination between year groups.

We will send a note out to parents explaining what you could do in terms of comprehension and extension tasks with books as we will not be changing them as regularly.

SAFETY NOTICE

If you are sending in a packed lunch for your child, **please do not send any chocolate spread** sandwiches. Many chocolate spread products contain nuts or traces of these, which are potentially life threatening to a number of our children. Thank you for your support.

Activity Fund

In order to provide additional enrichment activities such as trips, theatre shows, animal visits, cooking and crafts, which we hope to be able to run in some way this year, we ask if parents could make a voluntary contribution once a term or for the whole year to cover the costs of these activities, as this cannot be met from the school budget.

A letter will be sent home in book bags about this. We hope to receive enough contributions to be able to provide all these activities.

If we do not receive sufficient funds, some activities may have to be cancelled.

Message for Cherry Class Parents

Please could all adults who are collecting children from Cherry Class please come and wait on the artificial grass by the entrance to the Garden Walk. This will help the school staff who are sending the children out to you. In that area the sun slants into the eyes of school staff and the adults are sometimes quite far away on the playground, making it difficult to see who is picking up the children. There are also notices for Cherry Class parents on the Garden Walk windows. Many thanks if you can wait there at the end of the school day!

Please also find attached:

- Details of tennis courses for children
- Information about a Zoom course to help with anxiety in children

Attendance—important reminder

If your child is to be absent from school please phone and leave a message on the designated phone line. as this is checked frequently. We will call you if you have not contacted us, because we need to check that your child is safe. Please note that if your child's attendance falls below 90%, this is classified as "persistently absent" and is a cause for concern, so please try and make sure that children attend regularly and don't miss school unless they are ill. A copy of the school's Attendance Policy is on the website. This also contains information regarding Penalty Notices for holidays of 5 days or more taken by children aged 5 and above during term-time. Please note that Penalty Notices are sent by Wokingham Borough Council and not the school. The fine collected does not come to the school. As you are aware, if you take your child on holiday in school term time, they will miss much of their valuable education. If a child has two weeks' holiday in term time every year that they are in school, then by the time they have left us, they will have missed half a term of school. The time lost cannot easily be made up and really affects a young child's progress at school. It is Local Authority policy not to authorise absence, apart from illness, except in exceptional circumstances such as a family wedding. If you need to take your child out of school in term time, please fill in a Leave of Absence form, available from the school office or on our website.

Please see attached document for COVID related symptoms and procedures.

Parking and dropping off

To minimise contact on the playground between children and adults, we are operating these staggered starts:

8.40am—Year 2, 8.45 am—Nursery, 8.50am—Year 1, 9.00am—F2

Please stick to these times unless you are dropping off a child at the same time as a sibling who is starting earlier. Year 2 parents and carers can drop their child off at the gate at 8.40am (no earlier please as they will not be supervised) and they can walk independently into the playground where they will go in to class. Both the gates and the playground are supervised by school staff. **If leaving your child at the gate please bring them to the gate** as you are responsible for their safety up to that point. The byway is not safe for young children to cross on their own.

We ask that parents do not drive or park along the byway at the front of the school at the beginning and end of the school day as this is dangerous with so many parents and children around. The only exceptions are for disabled drivers, taxis or other vehicles by arrangement with the school. The byway is due to be closed off to all traffic in the next week or so to enable safer social distancing.

There are 12 marked bays at the Bell and Bottle pub that are for use by the school at the beginning and end of the school day only. There is some parking for parents at the Baptist Church—please ask at the school office for details.

When parking in the public car park and roads around the school, please be mindful of our neighbours, particularly the Medical Centre, Shinfield View, Parish Rooms, Co-op and local residents. Please park considerately and don't block access routes as this prevents the easy flow in and out of spaces, creating dangerous blind spots that may also conceal children walking past. Thank you for your cooperation and support for everyone's safety.

School Milk

All children are entitled to free school milk until the day of their 5th birthday. On and after this, if you would like your child to continue having school milk, you will need to register to pay for this.

Please contact the school office for more information about how to do this.



Birthdays in school

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we ask that children do not bring in sweets or other food to share for their birthdays. If you would like to send in something, why not send a new story book for all the class to enjoy? It could be read to the class for your child's birthday and then it could go into the class book corner. It would last a long time and could be shared by all the children in the class.

School COVID-19 Risk Assessment

This is available on the school website for parents to read, and frequently asked questions along with Government information will also be added to the same page. Please note that face coverings should be worn by all parents and visitors coming in to the school. If you need to come in but don't have a mask, one can be bought for £1.00 at the school office for use in the school building.

GOLDEN GOOD BOOK

Each week we focus on a good behaviour linked with our Jigsaw PSHE curriculum and the class teacher and class will nominate children who have shown exceptional effort in this area. Two of the nominated children will be chosen to receive a Golden Good Book Award.

As a special treat, the children in the Golden Good Book will have a biscuit and sticker. We are unable to offer the drinks at this time but hope that eventually we may be able to—we will have to wait and see how things progress with COVID-19. Look out for the names in the Golden Good Book each week.